UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.21
10 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

1. At its 38th and 46th meetings, on 4 and 8 June 1991, the Committee considered section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. The Committee regretted that the format of section 11A did not follow that of other sections and expressed its concern that the programme narrative did not clearly define the activities the Office intended to undertake during 1992-1993 in order to accomplish the objectives of the medium-term plan.

3. While recognizing the importance of coordination functions, some delegations pointed out that the Office was also responsible for providing the impetus to, and direction of, the economic and social development activities of the United Nations. In this connection, some delegations drew particular attention to the fact that, while dramatic economic and political changes in

the East have affected East-West relations, the North-South situation continued to require urgent attention by the international community and by the Office of the Director-General.

4. The Committee expressed its concern that the programme narrative of the Office did not specify how it proposed to provide innovative responses to emerging trends or how it proposed to direct and guide the economic and social development activities throughout the system. The Committee regretted that the expected results of the activities in the proposed programme budget were not clear.

5. The Committee noted that programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, "Africa: Critical economic situation, recovery and development", was included in section 11A of the proposed programme budget essentially for presentation purposes and that the Department of Public Information and the Economic Commission for Africa had full responsibility for those functions falling within their respective mandates.

6. Some delegations pointed out that the final review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development had not yet taken place and would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

7. Some delegations expressed their concern that the Office of the Director-General and the Department of Public Information were to be allocated more resources than the Economic Commission for Africa. Many delegations were of the view that the proposals for action were inadequate and noted that revisions would be made to reflect their concerns.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended that a separate and identifiable unit should be established within the Office of the Director-General to undertake those activities that fell within its responsibility, as proposed under programme 45 of its proposed programme budget.

9. Taking into account the reservations and views expressed, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.